

YOUTH SERVICES POLICY

Title: Transporting Youth by Community-Based Services Next Annual Review Date: 01/04/2013	Type: D. Community Based Services Sub Type: 10. Supervision Number: D.10.11
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References: La. Children's Code Arts. 735(C), 737, 813, 814 and 815, DYS Policy 10.27 "Search of Juveniles"; and ACA Standards 2-7162, 2-7168, 2-7169 (Juvenile Probation and Aftercare Services)	
STATUS: Approved	
Approved By: Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary	Date of Approval: 01/04/2012

I. AUTHORITY:

Deputy Secretary of Youth Services as contained in La. R.S. 36:405. Deviation from this policy must be approved by the Deputy Secretary.

II. PURPOSE:

To establish procedures for transporting youth by Community-Based Services staff.

III. APPLICABILITY:

Deputy Assistant Secretary - Community-Based Services, Regional Managers and employees of Community-Based Services

IV. DEFINITIONS:

Agency - Youth Services, Office of Juvenile Justice.

Agency Approved Restraints - Handcuffs, flex cuffs, shackles/leg irons, or restraint belts.

Chemical Agent - Any product which is dispensed by means of an aerosol spray to control an individual's combative and/or resistive behavior.

Community-Based Services (CBS) - Formerly known as the Division of Youth Services includes the regional probation and parole offices located throughout the state.

Deputy Assistant Secretary - Community-Based Services - Unit head of regional office staff.

Juvenile Electronic Tracking System (JETS) - The centralized database utilized to track all youth in OJJ custody or under OJJ supervision.

Officer - Any Community Based Services (CBS) Regional Manager, Program Specialist, Supervisor or Probation and Parole Officer/Juvenile, who is a commissioned Special Agent.

PPCT Defensive Tactics System (PPCT) - A researched based use of force subject control system developed through tactical, legal and medical research.

Probation and Parole Officer 1, 2, and 3/Juvenile (PPO/J) - Includes CBS probation officers.

Professional Staff - Includes CBS staff in the probation and parole series (Probation and Parole Officer/Juvenile, Probation and Parole Supervisor/Juvenile, Probation and Parole Regional Manager/Juvenile Probation and Parole Program Specialist/Juvenile and Probation and Parole Program Manager/Juvenile).

Secure Facility - Any juvenile detention center, secure facility for youth, adult jail, or prison.

Transport Officer – Any employee whose main function is transporting youth. This employee must have been trained in PPCT (including intermediate weapons), use of chemical agents, officer survival and adolescent behavior.

V. POLICY:

CBS shall comply with any court order directing the Agency to take physical custody of a youth and transport him to a secure facility, residential facility or shelter facility, in accordance with the La. Children's Code Articles. 735(C), 737, 813, 814, and 815.

It is also the responsibility of CBS to arrange transportation for any youth admitted or discharged from a non-secure placement or secure center for youth.

VI. PROCEDURES:

A. The following procedures shall be followed to minimize danger to staff, youth and the public:

1. Only an Officer or Transport Officer, as defined above, is allowed to transport youth;

2. YS employees shall complete training in PPCT (including intermediate weapons), the use of a chemical agent, officer survival and adolescent behavior prior to transporting or assisting in the transport of youth;
 3. A state vehicle shall be used when transporting youth;
 4. All occupants shall remain properly secured by seat belt for the duration of the transport;
- B. The assigned officer is responsible for arranging transportation of the youth being admitted or discharged from a non-secure or a secure center for youth. If the youth is returning to his home, transportation may be provided by the parent/guardian; however, if the parent/guardian is unable or unwilling to provide transportation, the assigned officer is responsible for arranging the transport.
- C. The employee assigning transports shall take into consideration the number of youth being transported, physical size, current offense, emotional state, history of violent behavior or escapes and purpose of the trip.
- D. Generally, employees should not transport youth of the opposite sex unless accompanied by another employee of the same sex as the youth or by the youth's parent or other concerned adult.

The Regional Manager or designee may authorize exceptions to this procedure on a case-by-case basis for the following reasons ONLY:

1. If an emergency situation exists; or
2. In the case of a female PPO/J, transporting a male youth and PPO/J and Regional Manager are confident that little or no risk to the youth or officer is present.

In such cases, a case narrative shall be entered in the youth's case record in JETS indicating prior approval and the reason for the exception.

- E. Physical searches shall be conducted in accordance with YS Policy D.10.27.
- F. Prior to placing a youth in a vehicle for transport, the vehicle shall be thoroughly searched. Any contraband, or items which may be used as a weapon, or items which may aid in an escape shall be removed to prevent the youth's access during the transport.

- G. The Officer/Transport Officer shall conduct a pat down search and metal scan (if available) prior to placing the youth in a vehicle for transport.
- H. Agency approved restraint devices shall be used during transports to/from secure facilities. Agency approved restraint devices may be used at the PPO/J or Transport Officer's discretion during all other transports. The use of any unapproved restraint device is prohibited.

Use of mechanical restraints on pregnant youth shall be limited to hand restraints only.

- I. A thorough search of the youth's personal belongings (purse, clothing, bags, boxes, etc.) shall also be conducted. Any weapons or contraband located during the search should be removed.
- J. All carry-on items, including jewelry, belts, hats, hair coverings, scarves and medication, shall be placed in the trunk of the vehicle or out of the reach of the youth when no trunk is available.

The removal of shoe strings from the youth's shoes shall be at the discretion of the Transport Officer or PPO/J.

- K. If the youth is being transported to a non-secure facility for residential placement, the youth's personal possessions shall be given to the facility staff upon arrival. If the youth is returning home, all personal possessions shall be returned upon completion of the transport.
- L. The following precautions shall be followed when utilizing restraint devices:
 - 1. The PPO/J or Transport Officer shall apply the restraints or check to ensure restraints have been properly applied by non-CBS staff;
 - 2. DOUBLE LOCK the restraints;
 - 3. The use of any device which attaches/binds the handcuffs/flexcuffs to the leg irons/shackles, commonly known as "hog-tying is prohibited;
 - 4. Never assume the youth is helpless because he is in restraints;

5. Be particularly alert when applying or removing restraints since this is an opportunity for the youth to attack or attempt to escape;
 6. Use of restraining belt with handcuffs and leg irons is the safest and most humane way to transport, especially if the trip is lengthy;
 7. If handcuffs are used without a restraining belt, the youth's hands will be cuffed behind his back and the handcuffs will be passed through the youth's belt or belt loop;
 8. Youth are NEVER to be physically fastened to a vehicle;
 9. Restraints are never to be applied in such a manner as to restrict blood circulation or breathing;
 10. Once restrained, the youth shall not be left in a prone position for an extended period of time.
- M. When a youth assigned to a secure care facility is transported off-campus, he shall be placed in Agency approved restraints.
Exception: Restraints are not required when the youth is being released from secure custody, attending an educational or day treatment program outside the secure facility, going on furlough, working at a job outside the secure facility, or going for a pre-placement interview at a non-secure program.
- N. A PPO/J or Transport Officer may use Agency approved restraints whenever he determines it is necessary for his safety or the safety of the youth.

This determination should be based on the following criteria:

1. The youth's emotional state;
2. The destination and distance;
3. The youth's history of runaways or escapes;
4. Whether there are other people in the vehicle; and

5. The PPO/J's relationship with the youth and any unusual circumstances surrounding the trip.
- O. Whenever there is a transfer of youth to another officer to complete the transport, it is the transporting PPO/J's or Transport Officer's responsibility to relay relevant information to the receiving officer regarding the youth's history of behaviors (runaway, self-mutilation, violent behavior, etc.) that may affect the safety of the youth, officers or other youth during the transport.

Previous Regulation/Policy Number: DYS 10.11

Previous Effective Date: 12-23-08

Attachments/References: